

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00241 230606Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 220940Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2347
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T DOHA 0241

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, QA, US
SUBJECT: AMIR OF QATAR'S INTEREST IN F-5'S

REF: DOHA 204

1. DURING FEB 22 BRIEFING OF AMIR OF QATAR ON SECY'S
MID EAST TRIP (SEPTTEL), I OUTLINED PRESIDENT'S DETER-
MINATION TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT FOR WORLDWIDE REDUCTION OF
ARMS TRANSFERS. I INFORMED AMIR THAT WE HAD ALREADY HAD
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SUCH MAJOR SUPPLIERS AS SOVIETS,
UK AND FRG AND THAT WE INTENDED TO PURSUE THESE DISCUSSIONS
WITH CONSUMERS AS WELL. (AMIR ASKED WHETHER WE HAD TALKED
TO FRENCH, AND I SAID I DIDN'T KNOW. PLEASE ADVISE.) I
ADVISED AMIR THAT AN OFFICIAL POLICY DECLARATION BY U.S. COULD
BE EXPECTED IN A MONTH OR SO.

2. IN REGARD TO AMIR'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN F-5 AIRCRAFT, I
SAID THAT ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY INTENTION OF REDUCING ARMS
SALES COULD NOT HELP BUT IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON SUCH INTEREST.

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I REMINDED AMIR OF OUR LONG STANDING POLICY OF REFUSING TO
SUPPLY SOPHISTICATED MILITARY HARDWARE, AND THIS INCLUDED
ADVANCED JET AIRCRAFT SUCH AS F-5'S, TO THE LOWER GULF STATES,
AND SAID HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT OUR PREVIOUS POSITION AND
DEVELOPING POLICY FRAMEWORK WOULD PERMIT AN F-5 SALE TO QATAR.

3. I TOLD AMIR THAT AS I HAD PROMISED, I RAISED HIS INTEREST

IN F-5'S SPECIFICALLY WITH SECY IN RIYADH AND SECY HAD INSTRUCTED ME TO DISCOURAGE THIS INTEREST IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS POLICY AND NEW ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTIONS, EVEN THOUGH NEW POLICY NOT AS YET LAID DOWN.

4. AMIR REITERATED THAT HE HAD NOT MADE ANY FORMAL REQUEST FOR F-5 PURCHASE BUT HAD MERELY TAKEN A SOUNDING TO ASCERTAIN WHAT USG'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE IF REQUEST FORTH-COMING. HE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST IF A REJECTION WERE ANTICIPATED.

5. ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO TRY TO REDUCE ARMS TRANSFERS WORLDWIDE, AMIR EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT, AND LAUDED EFFORT TO DIMINISH THIS ESSENTIALLY WASTEFUL USE OF RESOURCES. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCCESS OF THIS POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST/GULF AREA WOULD DEPEND ON PROGRESS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

6. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE HAVE EFFECTIVELY TURNED OFF GOQ'S INTEREST IN APPROACHING US FOR F-5'S. HOWEVER, QATARIS' CONTINUED CONSTRUCTIVE ACCEPTANCE OF OUR LIKELY REFUSAL TO SUPPLY SUCH EQUIPMENT WITHIN CONTEXT OF EXPECTED NEW ARMS SALES REDUCTION POLICY WILL DEPEND DIRECTLY ON WHAT WE DO IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY BAHRAIN AND UAE.
PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

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